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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 EB-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
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P 271457Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1373
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14333

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, GW, WB, FR, UR, US, UK
SUBJECT: GENSCHER-FALIN CONVERSATION

FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S AIDE HAS TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT NOTHING NEW EMERGED OUT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN ON SEPTEMBER 26. HE ADDED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--FALIN, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM MOSCOW, MAINLY REITERATED STANDARD RUSSIAN POSITIONS ON GERMAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE DID NOT OFFER ANY CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION REGARDING THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN THREE PENDING GERMAN-SOVIET AGREEMENTS.

ON OTHER BERLIN MATTERS, FALIN ALSO FOLLOWED THE STANDARD SOVIET LINE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF BERLINERS IN AN ELECTED EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY. HE GENERALLY AFFIRMED SOVIET INTERPRETATIONS OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. WITH REGARD TO THE
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OLD FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY ISSUE, FALIN CHIDED

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THE FRG FOR HAVING CONSULTED ONLY WITH THE THREE WESTERN POWERS AND NOT WITH THE SOVIET UNION BEFORE LOCATING THE AGENCY IN BERLIN. (THIS IS NOT A NEW SOVIET LINE). GENSCHER, OF COURSE, REITERATED THE GERMAN POSITIONS ON THESE POINTS.

-- FALIN ALSO BACKED THE GDR ON THE RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS, ASSERTING THAT WEST GERMANS SHOULD RESPECT THE GDR BORDER.

-- THE MOOD OF THE 1 3/4 HOUR MEETING WAS GENERALLY CALM AND RELAXED DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF COMMON GROUND. IT APPEARED CLEAR THAT FALIN WANTED TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE AND TO CALM GERMAN CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET ATTITUDES. ALTHOUGH GENSCHER CRITICIZED SOVIET POLICY AND SOVIET ATTITUDES RATHER SHARPLY, AND ALTHOUGH FALIN GAVE NOTHING AWAY, FALIN WAS CLEARLY ATTEMPTING TO AVOID EXACERBATING THE SITUATION AND TO REAFFIRM SOVIET INTEREST IN THE QA AND IN GOOD GERMAN-SOVIET RELATIONS.

-- GENSCHER HAD INITIATED THE MEETING, FOLLOWING EARLIER FAILURES BY HIMSELF AND FALIN TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT APPOINTMENT BEFORE FALIN'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW.

COMMENT: WE HOPE AT THE NEXT BONN GROUP MEETING TO GET A MORE DETAILED REPORT ON THE BERLIN ASPECTS OF THE GENSCHER-FALIN CONVERSATION. IN THE MEANTIME, IT APPEARS THAT, IF THE SOVIETS HAVE SOMETHING NEW TO SAY TO THE GERMANS, THEY ARE NOT SAYING IT AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

WHAT ALSO EMERGES FROM TODAY'S RUNDOWN IS RENEWED EMPHASIS ON MOSCOW'S CLAIM TO A "FOURTH VOICE" IN DECISIONS AFFECTING WEST BERLIN AND ON THE NEED FOR THE GERMANS TO CONSULT NOT ONLY THE ALLIES BUT ALSO THE SOVIETS ON THEIR PLANS FOR BERLIN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN14333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760327-0748
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760814/aaaaalmq.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENSCHER-FALIN CONVERSATION FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S AIDE HAS TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT NOTHING NEW EMERGED OUT OF THE MEET
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GC, GE, WB, FR, UR, US, UK, (GENSCHER), (FALIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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